

# Speak Out

Have an opinion or a question about a public issue? Post it anytime at the Public Issues Forums at [www.newszap-forums.com/forum15/](http://www.newszap-forums.com/forum15/). It is a hometown forum so visit the page as often as you would like and share your comments (but no personal attacks or profanities, please). You can also make a comment by calling our Speak Out 24-hour opinion line at 623-445-2850 ext. 2. Comments will be published in the newspaper as space permits.

**REAL ESTATE AGENTS, SVE:** What is the purpose of establishing a welcome center in Sunland Village East? This community is 24 years old. Does the SVE board plan to impose a policy forbidding real estate agents from using this space as a place to meet prospective clients without paying any leasing fee? By law, a real estate agent cannot split his or her sales commissions with an unlicensed party, such as the SVE community. It seems very unfair to give real estate agents a business advantage in this community. The individual real estate companies should be more than able to provide a meeting space for their real estate agents and a prospective client.

**RUSSERT FUNERAL:** In listening to the news, I am appalled at the kind of funeral that they give Tim Russert. I sympathize with the family. However, they gave this guy a funeral as if he was the president of the United States. Whereas our soldiers fighting a war for freedom don't even get that kind of attention or their name mentioned on this news. What has America come to? Patronize the person who hasn't even been in the service, while our military men go unrecognized or unannounced or most of them don't even get that kind of service. This is appalling. Tim Russert didn't deserve that kind of a funeral – that was higher than a military man.

**ALTA MESA HOA:** There's a new board of directors at the Alta Mesa Homeowners Association area and the future's looking brighter – if only the management company knew it, too. Things are looking up. Hopefully for you, too.

**DREAMLAND SUMMER CAMP:** My husband and I moved to Dreamland Villa 26 years ago because it was a 55-plus community and we were so impressed with how the homes and yards were so well-kept. We raised our three children and loved them and our grandchildren dearly, but wanted to live in an adult community. Things here have really changed for the worst. Dreamland is already being used as a public pool for grandchildren who live in the Mesa area. As soon as schools close you see the same children day after day. Now we have grandchildren spending entire summers with their grandparents and it seems like we have turned into a summer camp. They use our pools, do not follow the rules and are very rude. Don't tell us to move because we rightfully belong here. Why do we have to cater to these inconsiderate people? Give Dreamland back to us.

**CRUISING DOWN MAIN STREET:** The best example of some boomers rejecting today's reality is the idea of bringing back cruising on Main Street. Oh yeah, and gas is only \$4.19 a gallon. Somewhere over the rainbow, boys?

**MASS TRANSIT:** In response to the "Bus rapid transit ready" story published in the June 24, 2008 edition of the *East Mesa Independent*, it's too late. We needed it big and we needed it years ago and we need it spread out further than it is. The people of Arizona had better start thinking about this. This is the future and it needed to be done immediately. No more delaying. This mass transit is about 10 or 20 years behind. We spread out too quick, and not enough transportation to help the people, and when you get downtown you got to take a bus and buses don't go everywhere.

**HUMMINGBIRD FEEDERS:** Summertime is a beautiful time to fix your yard up. However, some people in the Dreamland Villa area prefer to put their hummingbird food right out in 120-degree heat. The hummingbirds will not come and drink something like that. If they do, you may take a chance on killing the little fellow. Be smart: Put the hummingbird food under a shade tree or under the eaves of your porch.

**COLLECTION BOXES RIFLED THROUGH:** There's a woman in East Mesa who goes around to these collection boxes for charities and steals things out of them. She'll actually open up the door and peek inside and pull things out of there and steal them. The charities and the police have been told. She turns around and someone sells the stuff at yard sales. She's selling stolen property. The public should be aware of this. Donate your stuff inside these organizations and take things into the stores.

**MEXICAN VILLAGE:** A new Mexican Village? Why not? Every big city has its Chinatown, Little Italy, Germantown area, etc. It's called American diversity.

## Public issues forums

Join the discussion of important issues at [newszap.com](http://newszap.com). Topics include:

- **Mesa issues:** [www.newszapforums.com/forum15/](http://www.newszapforums.com/forum15/)
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- **Chandler issues:** [www.newszapforums.com/forum13/](http://www.newszapforums.com/forum13/)
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Go to [newszap.com](http://newszap.com), click on your community and then on "community forums and links."

## From the Editor

# Red Mountain Spa event benefits Sunshine Acres

By Todd Hoover  
Independent Newspapers

Red Mountain Med Spa, 1635 N. Greenfield Road Suite 135, held its "Wine, Dine and Unwind" charity spa event June 19 at its new North Scottsdale location at 8550 E. Shea Blvd Suite 120. Proceeds from the event benefited Sunshine Acres Children's Home, 3405 N. Higley Road. Red Mountain Spa spokesperson Christina Jordan said the spa's owner and medical director, Dr. Suzanne Bentz, likes to help those in need. "She felt that the 'Wine, Dine and Unwind' charity spa event was the perfect way to both celebrate the grand opening of her second med spa in Scottsdale, but also a way to bring the community together to help those less fortunate," Ms. Jordan said. She said more than 600 guests attended, including 2008 Mrs. Arizona Stephanie Barney, PEAK 98.7 radio host Monica Nelson, professional singer Vikki Jordan from Gilbert-based Spotlight Dinner Theatre and many Sunshine Acres directors. "All guests were treated like VIPs as they dined on gourmet wraps ... desserts and sipped wine while listening to music and mingling," Ms. Jordan explained. Ms. Jordan said the spa raised more than \$1,000 for Sunshine

Acres via a charity raffle of a cosmetic makeover and other spa services. "Staff from Sunshine Acres stated that in the current time they are in need of additional monetary donations and truly appreciate the help from Red Mountain Med Spa," she said. She said the medical spa sponsored a Northwest Mesa-based mothers' support group called "Moms of Destiny" by donating over \$2,000 in spa services. "In addition, the med spa also donates frequently to organizations that fund orphanages in Third World countries across the globe," she explained. Red Mountain Med Spa will host more charity mixers – all benefiting Sunshine Acres – noon-2 p.m. Fridays July 25, Aug. 29, Sept. 26 and Oct. 24. The events are free and open to the public. Call Ms. Jordan at 480-784-7982 or visit [www.redmountainmed-spa.com](http://www.redmountainmed-spa.com). *Editor's Note: Todd Hoover is the news editor for the East Mesa Independent. He can be reached at 480-982-7799 or [thoover@newszap.com](mailto:thoover@newszap.com).*



Todd Hoover

## Letters

### Children must be nurtured in tragedies

On July 4, many Americans will fly the flag in remembrance of missing dads. In the past, family members would "step up" and be supportive of a grieving child, and during his or her lifetime would provide quality time such as going fishing or to a baseball game, as well as provide financial support at a time of loss.

Families today do not live in close proximity. America's children are being nurtured at day care while the parents work.

Our school systems transport a child from a familiar neighborhood at young ages to a large school where one learns more about standing in line, often lacking the individual attention once inside the classroom.

Creating a "missing dad syndrome," in my logic, is political because over the years we've noticed still photographs of missing soldiers and the missing parent who lost the battle to breast cancer. To recognize society's "missing person" ills, we must realize that children need nurturing family members as much as mom and dad in the event of tragedy. A child is the perfect human and "it takes a village" to realize the possibilities.

Cherokee Mangus  
Dreamland Villa

### Compliance rules not that restrictive

The Architectural Compliance Committee guidelines have been amended every two years as they have been in the past six years I have been a member of the ACC.

Recent corrections to the guidelines that were adopted March 2008 were proposed for the board of directors to adopt at its June 12 regular meeting.

The ACC guidelines were orig-

### Letters Policy

The purpose of our opinion page is to provide an open forum for our readers. We seek to stimulate community debate, not to dominate or control it.

We welcome and read all letters. Please include your address and phone number so we can contact you for clarification or confirmation. Because of limited space, we may condense or edit letters. We do not publish form letters, copies or letters written to other publications. The shorter the letter, the better its chance of publication. Letters should be no more than 500 words. Readers may post letters on our Web site at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com).

inally adopted soon after Sunland Village East's incorporation was recorded March 5, 1984, and the first board of directors, RCC&R's and bylaws were established.

The purpose for the ACC guidelines is to maintain SVE as an attractive community to preserve property values and to assure homeowners the peaceful and quiet lifestyle they are entitled to here in SVE.

The ground rules and the operation for the ACC are established by the board in the bylaws. Guidelines supplement the CC&Rs and serve to guide homeowners when an exterior change to their property is contemplated.

The ACC guidelines are intended to prevent a violation before it takes place, rather than to punish a homeowner by requiring a correction after it takes place, just as building and zoning codes are intended to accomplish.

As situations arise within our community or federal, state and city laws are created, the ACC guidelines are added to or amended so as to be current and in compliance of those changes and conditions. This is for the benefit and well-being of SVE property owners.

The SVE Condo Association enforces our guidelines and is more restrictive.

All planned communities have ACC guidelines, with many being much more restrictive than ours here in SVE.

The United States of America

is a land of many laws to be complied with. Many we don't particularly care for, but must abide with if we are to exist as free Americans.

Larry Seegers  
Sunland Village East

### Mesa charter creates corrupt environment

As Americans, we want our God-given Constitutional rights, but as citizens and the rightful owners of Mesa, our rights have been diminished by the implementation of a city charter that takes away its citizens' power.

More than 50 percent of U.S. cities have adopted these deviously worded charters since 1955. The main difference between a city manager/mayor rule vs. a mayor alone is that the council members appoint the city manager, not the citizens.

The city manager has total power over the mayor and council. What he or she does is not answerable to the people, but only to the council members and on a limited basis.

In a perfect world, this wouldn't be an issue. But when we put a few people in charge of deciding whom the most powerful person in the city is, this creates a condition for corruption.

With citizen oversight and review very limited, we are forced to rely on the competency and honesty of our elected council members.

Is this even feasible when the

appointed administrators dominate them? When you combine these aspects with the easily manipulated optical-scan voting system in place, you have a breeding ground for corruption and abuse of the citizens and the revenue they provide.

Wake up, Mesans, and get rid of that unconstitutional city charter because it bypasses the electorate and limits the taxpayers' power in the choice of who controls their city and its funds. Unless we change this unguarded system of corruption, we will see more increases in utility rates and a property tax created.

Avajejan Kazak  
Mesa

### Taking advantage of grieving families

My grandfather recently passed away, and as all grieving families do, we posted his obituary in two newspapers.

Two photos were submitted along with a summary of his life's history; the cost of the obituaries for both newspapers came to just under \$800.

So many times, I have seen three- to four-line obituaries and thought how sad that there wasn't more to say about the deceased. I now understand why people or families keep it short and simple.

Not only are they paying thousands of dollars to give their loved one a decent burial, but now the newspapers are sticking it to them with the obituaries. This is a disgrace.

It would be less expensive to buy announcements and pay for postage. It's bad enough paying \$4.15 a gallon for gas, so why not pay \$800 to honor your loved one? After all, it's only money, right?

John Whitfield  
East Mesa

## Guest Commentary

# Keeping your entire family water safe

By Michele Adamczyk

Have you ever thought a drowning could not happen to you or your family? Drowning can happen to anyone at anytime.

In 2007, the Phoenix metropolitan area had 174 drowning-related incidents. Of those emergency calls, 14 children and 38 adults died.

Last year, Mesa Fire crews responded to 29 drowning calls, resulting in the deaths of six children and three adults.

It is important to realize that small children are not the only ones at risk, but that adults are, too.

Adults and senior citizens are at a higher risk around water when alcohol, drugs or medications are used while participating in water activities.

Alcohol and other substances including prescription drugs can impair a person's judgement, balance and coordination. This is a prime example of why no one, regardless of his or her age, should be swimming alone.

The best option for keeping your entire family water safe is for all family members to learn how to swim, and for adults and older children to learn CPR. Remember that even experienced swimmers can have an unexpected emergency in the water.

The Mesa Fire Department has two class options that can pre-

pare you for these types of emergencies.

The Lifesaver Class is a free CPR and first aid overview course that will provide you with hands-on experience with an adult and infant mannequin, as well as basic first aid information on bleeding and shock. This course is not for certification purposes.

In addition, the Mesa Fire Department offers a CPR certification class for a nominal fee that lasts four hours and provides more in-depth training.

The Mesa Fire Department promotes water safety by encouraging constant eye-to-eye supervision around water.

Here are some simple steps that you and your family can take around water. These steps could be the difference between a day of fun and a lifetime tragedy.

- Always provide constant eye-to-eye supervision to anyone around water, regardless of age.

- Never swim alone at any age. Just because a person knows how to swim does not mean they are immune to drowning. There is no such thing as being "drown-proof."

- Do not let your guard down around small plastic wading pools, buckets or bathtubs. Be sure to empty these after each use because a child can drown in as little as one inch of water.

- Remember that barriers are

an added layer of protection. Check gates, latches and locks monthly on all fences and doors leading to a pool. Make sure they are in proper working condition.

- Do not forget about doggie doors, which are often overlooked as an access point leading to a pool.

- Mount lifesaving devices, such as a life ring or hook, by the pool. Display emergency numbers in a highly visible area.

- Always keep a phone close by for emergencies.

- Learn CPR and be ready to use it in an emergency.

- Regardless of age, learn how to swim before going in any body of water.

A special reminder for parents as we enter summer: Ask several questions of other parents or guardians when allowing

your children to visit or swim at a friend's house. Here are a few questions for you to consider:

- Is there a possibility that the residence has had an above-ground pool recently installed?

- Will there be adult supervision while children are in the pool?

- Are adults using eye-to-eye supervision when children are around the pool with no other distractions?

- How many children will be at the residence swimming?

For more information on water safety or CPR classes, visit [www.cityofmesa.org/fire/FALSE/Water-Safety.aspx](http://www.cityofmesa.org/fire/FALSE/Water-Safety.aspx) or call 480-644-2294.

*Editor's Note: Michele Adamczyk is the water safety and drowning prevention coordinator for Mesa Fire Department.*

## Corrections

In the "ACC actions explained" story published in the June 17, 2008 edition of the *East Mesa Independent*, Charlie Parcels was accidentally referred to as a former "building instructor." He is a former building inspector.

We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience this may have caused our readers.

The *East Mesa Independent* strives for accuracy and is pledged to bring errors that have appeared in our newspaper to the attention of our readers. In addition, we offer a "right of reply" to the people about whom we write. Readers who disagree with the content of a news story or the way it was handled or edited are welcome to respond with a letter to the editor or guest commentary and all such letters will be given priority over other submissions. We invite readers to call our newsroom at 480-982-7799 to report an error. Readers may also e-mail their comments to [emesanews@newszap.com](mailto:emesanews@newszap.com).

**Our Purpose...**  
The East Mesa Independent is published by Independent Newspapers of Arizona. Independent is owned by a unique trust that enables this newspaper to pursue a mission of journalistic service to the citizens of the community. Since no dividends are paid, the company is able to thrive on profit margins below industry standards. All after-tax surpluses are reinvested in Independent's mission of journalistic service, commitment to the ideals of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and support of the community's deliberation of public issues.

**We Pledge ...**

- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
- To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
- To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent decisions about public issues.
- To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
- To disclose our own conflicts of interest or potential conflicts to our readers.
- To correct our errors and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

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